

Tourist Potential in Orissa

1365. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa, the cradle of Buddhism, has good potential for tourism industry;

(b) whether this potential in the Nabarangapur district remains untapped with many historic places including Podagada lying neglected;

(c) whether the Podagada, rich in lapidary inscriptions, sculptures, ruined forts and temples, needs renovation; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to address the above issues to boost tourism to improve the economy of the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Govt. of Orissa has neither prioritized nor submitted any project proposal for Nabarangapur District including Podagada for the year 2006-07.

(d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Government/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Following projects have been prioritized in consultation with the State Government of Orissa for the year 2006-07:

Destination

1. Chilka

Circuit

1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark
2. Simlipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchlingameshwar

3. Araku Valley-Sonbeda-Koraput-Malkangiri

Fair and Festival

1. Sreekshetra Vasant Utsav
2. Ekamra
3. Puri Beach Festival
4. Konark Festival

Rural Tourism

1. Dayaringi Badi village, Distt. Kandhamal
2. Deulajhari village, Distt. Angul
3. Padmanavpur village, Distt. Ganjam

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head. However, an amount of Rs. 1242.91 lakh has been sanctioned for the projects in the year 2006-07 for Orissa.

A list of projects sanctioned in the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is enclosed at Statement (See below).

Statement

Projects sanctioned to the State of Orissa in the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
2004-05		
1.	Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda) under Destination Development	488.51
2.	Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa-Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit	740.67

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
3.	Shreekshetra Vasant Festival at Puri	15.00
4.	Kharvela Festival, 2004-05	5.00
5.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Software)	20.00
6.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Raghurajpur in Puri Distt. (Software)	20.00
7.	Development of Village Pipli in Puri distt. (Software)	50.00
TOTAL:		1339.18

2005-06

1.	Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea (Distt. Ganjam)	331.43
2.	Development of sakhi Gopal (Distt. Puri)	294.04
3.	Development of taptapani in Distt. Ganjam as Tourist Destination	500.00
4.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Bhubaneswar-Dhauli-Puri-Konark	720.09
5.	Development of Chilka Lake (Distt. Puri and Ganjam) as Tourist Destination	389.05
6.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	50.00
7.	Shreekshetra Festival at Puri	15.00
8.	Puri Beach Festival, 2005	4.00
9.	Konark Festival, 2005	3.00
10.	Rajrani Festival, 2005 at Bhubaneswar	3.00
TOTAL:		2309.61

2006-07

1.	Development of Simlipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj as a tourist destination	297.12
2.	Puri Beach Festival, 2006	05.00
3.	Konark Festival, 2006	05.00
4.	Ekamra Utsav, 2007	10.00

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
5.	Shreekshetra Vasant Utsav, 2006	10.00
6.	Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea, Ganjam (additional sanction)	115.79
7.	Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talasari-Udaipur-Chandaneshwar-Remuna-Panchalingeshwar-Nilagiri Circuit	800.00
TOTAL:		1242.91

Unexplored Buddhist relics in Orissa

1366. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Langudi in Orissa-possesses innumerable unexplored Buddhist relics lying beneath the ground;

(b) whether Langudi hillock and its adjoining areas need extensive research to bring to light many unknown aspects of Buddhist history in Orissa;

(c) if so, whether the ASI has taken over the above site for conservation for posterity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Langudi Hill in Orissa has innumerable unexplored Buddhist relics beneath the ground. Extensive survey/exploration of the Langudi Hill and other sites adjoining to the said area were conducted by Orissan Institute of Maritime and South East Studies, Bhudaneswar and some important Buddhist remains have been recovered.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared the Langudi hill and the archaeological remains as monument of national importance on 25.2.2004. The ownership of the site still rests with the Government of Orissa.